

Attorney Docket No. 33417/US

In the Specification:

[0017] As seen from FIGS. 1 and 3, the left mounting profile 13 also includes a first or left, hook-like flange 23 forming a downwardly-open U-shaped channel above a longitudinally-extending support member 25 of the left profile 13. The support member 25 ~~connects~~ connect the left profile connector 21 with the left flange 23. In this regard, the left profile connector 21 preferably includes a left wall 21A, a right wall 21B, a top wall 21C and a bottom wall 21D, and the support member 25 is preferably integral with the bottom wall 21D.

[0021] In accordance with this invention, the right top wall 41 of the right flange 37 extends to the right, horizontally and outwardly, away from the top wall 22C of the right profile connector 22 by a distance that is the substantially the same, but slightly greater, than the distance that the left top wall 29 of the left flange 23 extends to the right, horizontally and inwardly, away from the left side wall 27. Thereby, the right top wall 41 can completely cover left top wall 29 when the right top wall lies directly atop the left top wall when the flanges 23, 37 are used to mount a pair of panels 1 on a carrier.

[0025] As shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, the carrier 47 preferably has a conventional, generally L- or Z-shaped configuration, with; a horizontally-extending top flange 49, to be connected to a ceiling or panel suspension system; a vertically-extending intermediate member 51, the top of which is connected to the left end of the top flange; and a horizontally-extending bottom flange 53, connected to the bottom of the intermediate member. The bottom flange 53 preferably extends horizontally and leftwardly away from the top flange 49 to a free left side 53A. The top surface 53C of the bottom flange 53, on which a pair of panels 1 can be mounted, has: a vertically-extending locking lug 57, ~~between the a carrier lug 55~~ and the intermediate member 51. The carrier lug 55 has: a gentle left ramp 55A extending downwardly and leftwardly towards the free left side 53A of the bottom flange 53; a sharper, vertically downward or angled-back right wall 55B; and a top wall 55C, between them. The left ramp 55A facilitates the installation of a panel 1 on the carrier 47, even when the adjacent panel 1 is already in place as will be explained below. The height of the top wall 55C of the carrier lug, above the top surface 53C of the bottom flange 53, is at least equal to the distance that the left inner rim 33 extends below the left top wall 29 of the left flange 23, and the locking lug 57 preferably has a height above the top surface of the bottom flange that is at least equal to the distance that the right rim 45 extends below the right top wall 41 of the right flange 37. Hence, the locking lug 57 is preferably higher than the carrier lug 55, and this difference in height should be at least equal to the difference in the height of the right rim 45 and the left inner rim 33.